

Kansas SENTINEL

Official News Magazine of the Kansas Army National Guard
Winter 2015, Volume 6, Issue 1



*Guard shines
at governor's
inauguration*

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On the Cover

Three members of the Adjutant General's Ceremonial Platoon (left to right: Master Sgt. Keith Bartlett, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Topeka; Airman 1st Class Denise Garcia, 190th Security Forces Squadron, 190th Air Refueling Wing, Topeka; and Staff Sgt. Nicholas Churchill, Medical Detachment, Lenexa) present the colors as part of the Kansas National Guard's support of Gov. Sam Brownback's inauguration Jan. 12 at the State Capitol building in Topeka. *Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.*

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Editor, *Kansas Sentinel*,

105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment,
2722 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66611

Telephone: 785-274-1896, or by e-mail at:
jessica.barnett3.mil@mail.mil

Assistant Adjutant General-Land Component

Brig. Gen. Robert Windham

Publisher

Maj. D. Matt Keane, 105th MPAD commander

Editor-in-Chief

Capt. Michael Sullivan

Associate Editors

Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett

Sgt. Zach Sheely

Graphic Design and Layout

Capt. Michael Sullivan

Spc. Anna Laurin

FROM THE COMMANDER



Greetings, Soldiers. I hope the New Year has been good to you.

I want to thank you and your families for all you do and the time you sacrifice. When I see breaking news coverage of a natural or man-made incident, I see citizens on television asking about the National Guard or saying they hope the National Guard will get there soon. This says a great deal about the value citizens place on your service, knowing you are there and will come when needed.

Many positive things have been happening in the past few months. We have had a number of changes of command and it is always energizing to see a new wave of officers and noncommissioned officers assume leadership roles of increased responsibility. We have seen promotions of some of our best and brightest. We have officially opened the Kansas Culinary Center of Excellence, the National Guard's premier training site for Army cooks from across the Guard, Reserve and active component. Many family members and employers have been recognized for their support and contributions. We have faced challenges, but the fact is there are a lot of good things happening.

Recently, Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, command sergeant major of the Kansas National Guard – Land Component, and I had the pleasure of spending a weekend with all of our command teams. It was time well-spent. In that limited time, we tried to focus on priority and high value topics. Leaders left with some tools and some key information to share with the field.

The communication was two way. I listened to what they had to say and have read their comments from the sessions and their after action reviews. This feedback will shape how the staff and I proceed and will certainly influence the conduct of certain things in the future.

Our priorities and main effort remain focused on Readiness, Soldier Care and enhancing Communication. I expect leaders and staff at all levels to remain personally committed to these areas. This is what Soldiers should expect from their leadership and from the staff that provides support to them, without exception.

Keep up the good work and take care of yourself, your family and your Soldiers. Be safe.

Very Respectfully,

Robert Windham

Brig. Gen. Robert Windham
Kansas Army National Guard Commander
Assistant Adjutant General-Army

KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD supports governor's inauguration

By Sgt. Zach Sheely
Public Affairs Office

Cannon fire shook the lawn of the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka, Jan. 12, and the sound of ruffles and flourishes filled the dome inside as the Kansas National Guard provided the pomp and circumstance of the gubernatorial inauguration ceremony, marking the re-election of Gov. Sam Brownback. Guardsmen were also on hand to escort Kansas state officials into Exposition Hall at the Kansas Expocentre, Jan. 10 for the inaugural dinner and ball.

"The men and women of the Kansas National Guard are proud to serve Governor Brownback and follow his leadership as our commander in chief, as we have with every governor since Kansas became a state," said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, adjutant general of Kansas.


The Adjutant General's Department includes the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Homeland Security, and provides administrative support to the Civil Air Patrol. The Kansas National Guard has approximately 7,500 Army and Air Guardsmen serving throughout the state.

The procession of the ball was led by Senior Airman Camry Gayer, the Kansas National Guard Airman of the Year, and Sgt. Kevin Davis, Kansas National Guard Soldier of the Year, followed by Tafarielli and his wife, Tammy, who escorted Brownback and his family.

Following the Grand March, the Adjutant General's Ceremonial Color Guard, under the command of State Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, presented the colors during the singing of the national anthem.

Originally scheduled to be held on the south steps of the Capitol, the inauguration ceremony was moved into the Kansas House Chamber due to the cold temperatures and wind chill. The 35th Infantry Division Band performed several musical selections under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steve Patterson.

After Brownback received his oath of office and delivered his inaugural address, Tafarielli and Lt. Col. Jerritt Curtis, commander of troops for the inauguration, escorted the governor as he inspected an honor guard of Kansas Guardsmen and Kansas Highway Patrol troopers, reaffirming his role as their commander in chief. During the inspection, a salute battery from the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery provided a 19-gun salute fired by 75mm towed howitzers.



A salute battery from the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery fires a 75 mm towed howitzer on the south lawn of the State Capitol in Topeka, Jan. 12. The Soldiers provided a 19-gun salute as part of the ceremony marking Gov. Sam Brownback's role as commander in chief of the Kansas National Guard. Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office



Gov. Sam Brownback, left; Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of Kansas, center; and Maj. Mark Bruce, acting commander of the Kansas Highway Patrol, right; stand and salute, assuming their respective commands during the inaugural ceremony at the State Capitol in Topeka, Jan. 12. *Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*



Gov. Sam Brownback and Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of Kansas, shake hands at the conclusion of the inaugural ceremony Jan. 12 at the State Capitol in Topeka. Brownback serves as the commander in chief of the Kansas National Guard. *Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office*



The dome of the State Capitol in Topeka is reflected in the trombone of a member of the 35th Infantry Division Band, Kansas Army National Guard, during the inaugural ceremony Jan. 12. *Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office*

130TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

reactivated in Manhattan

Story and Photos
by Sgt. Zach Sheely
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Brass instruments glinted in the sun as the sound of cannon fire echoed across Frank Anneberg Park in Manhattan, Oct. 19, 2014, as the Kansas National Guard saw the reactivation of the historic 130th Field Artillery Brigade, a unit whose military lineage goes back to World War I.

The reactivated brigade brings with it 15 new full-time National Guard jobs and 163 part-time positions. The part-time jobs are traditional National Guard positions in which individuals train one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

“The reactivation, one more time, of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade is a long-awaited event that returns a storied and treasured unit to the inventory and a powerful asset to the state and nation,” said Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, commander Kansas Army National Guard. “The 130th is a decorated unit with a long history and rich lineage.”

The Soldiers of the 130th FA Brig. stood in formation as the 35th Division Band played, and the ceremony was marked by the uncasing of the red and yellow flag for the first time since 2007. Windham ceremonially passed the flag to the new commander, Col. John Rueger, symbolizing the activation.

“It’s a great honor for me to command the newest field artillery brigade in the Army National Guard,” said Rueger. “We’re bringing such a tremendous history forward. With the unfurling of the colors, this brigade is starting a new chapter in the Kansas Army National Guard and brings much capability and much to the fight.”

The 130th FA Brig. history in the Kansas Army National Guard dates back to 1917, where its lineage can be traced through both world wars as part of the 35th Infantry Division, the Korean conflict and, most recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the brigade was inactivated on Nov. 10, 2007.



Brig. Gen. Robert E. Windham, center, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, passes the flag of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade to Col. John W. Rueger, commander of the 130th FA Brig., as Command Sgt. Major Harold Whitley looks on, to signify the activation of the 130th FA Brig. during a ceremony at Frank Anneberg Park, Manhattan, Oct. 19, 2014.

The field artillery corps is known as the “King of Battle” and the 130th FA Brig. is the eighth such unit in the National Guard. The close proximity of the headquarters to Fort Riley and the 1st Army Division is mutually beneficial, said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli, adjutant general of Kansas.

“We want to find ways to bring the National Guard and our active duty counterparts together, so we find a host of opportunities where we can work and train together as one fighting force,” said Tafarielli.

The headquarters will provide command and control to subordinate field

artillery units in the Kansas National Guard. These include the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery in Hutchinson and the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery in Hiawatha. The field artillery units provide indirect fire in support of Army maneuvers. The brigade’s subordinate battalions are fielded with the 155 mm Paladin self-propelled howitzer and equipped with the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

“With the standup of the 130th today, our Army is stronger and the enemies of our nation and the people who threaten our way of life are more at risk,” said Windham.



The 130th Field Artillery Brigade of the Kansas National Guard is officially activated during a ceremony at Frank Anneberg Park, Manhattan, Oct. 19, 2014. The reactivated brigade brings 15 new full-time National Guard jobs to Manhattan and 163 part-time National Guard positions to the state.



An exchange between

Officers of high caliber

By Spc. Anna Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A field of Soldiers stood at attention under a dusky sunset as flags were exchanged between Lt. Col. Martin Fries and Lt. Col. Matthew Twombly during a change of command ceremony for the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment



Lt. Col. Matthew Twombly, incoming commander for the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment, speaks to the families of the Soldiers during a change of command ceremony at the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Sept. 13, 2014. Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

at the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Sept. 13, 2014.

Prior to taking command, Twombly was the deputy personnel officer at Joint Forces Headquarters in Topeka during drill status, and he still holds that position during his full-time duties. He understands that this command position will have a few major differences from his old position.

"The biggest difference is that I'm now back out in the field working with a field artillery battalion and working with Soldiers at all levels," said Twombly. "What I am looking forward to is the energy that young Soldiers bring, and continue to provide guidance that keeps that energy and excitement they have for what they do."

Fries's next assignment is with Army North at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, with a promotion to colonel. Leaving the unit, he has many fond highlights and memories of the resiliency of the 161st FA Soldiers.

"The highlight would be last year when we fired for the first time as a full battalion in probably five years," said Fries. "My biggest memory was annual training this year. The amount of hard work that each one of these five batteries and one company and how they worked and took it to the next level. This battalion does live up to its motto, 'Do without saying.'"

"I'm excited for this unit because



The 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment receives an Army Superior Unit Award for their deployment in Iraq, at the Kansas Regional Training Center, Salina, Sept. 13, 2014. The battalion also received an Army Superior Unit Award for their deployment to Djibouti, Africa. Photo by Spc. Anna Laurin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

we have one lieutenant colonel who has done an outstanding job, the unit's in great shape right now, over a hundred percent, and all the readiness factors are good," said Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. "Lieutenant Colonel Twombly is the guy to step in and if anybody can take it up a notch, it's him."

Moving forward with the battalion Twombly wants his Soldiers to understand that they and their families are his top priorities.

"Any decisions that are made, I will always think about them first and how those decisions impact them and their families," said Twombly.

Union Pacific donates \$15,000 to Kansas National Guard's Military Emergency Relief Fund

As an expression of its support for the state's military families during the holiday season, Union Pacific Railroad donated \$15,000 to the Kansas National Guard's Military Emergency Relief Fund.

Ben Jones, Union Pacific Railroad, presented a check to Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, and Mary Nesbitt, Family Programs director for the Kansas National Guard, Dec. 18, 2014, during a brief ceremony in the Adjutant General's Conference Room of the State Defense Building, Topeka.

"This generous donation will go a long way toward helping members of our extended military family who may be struggling financially during this holiday season," said Tafanelli. "On behalf of everyone in the Kansas National Guard and other branches of our armed services, I want to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation."

"Union Pacific recognizes and values what the Kansas National Guard relief fund means to those that serve in the military and their families," said Ben Jones, Union Pacific director – public affairs for Kansas and Missouri. "It's important that we do our part to support groups such the Kansas National Guard relief fund as they continue to positively impact Kansas cities and towns where many of our employees live and work."

Tafanelli noted that Union Pacific has been consistently rated one of the top military-friendly corporations in the nation. G.I. Jobs magazine has named Union Pacific a top military friendly employer 12 times, and Military Times ranked the company fifth in its 2014 list of "Best for Vets" employers. The company is a member of the Army Reserve's Employee Partnership Initiative, supports the Army Partnership for Youth Success program, and is a past recipient of both the Freedom Award, the U.S. government's highest employer recognition, and the Military Officers Association of America Distinguished Service Award.

The Kansas Military Emergency Relief Fund was set up to provide emergency financial aid to help military families with the cost of food, housing, utilities and medical services incurred while a member of the family is on active military duty. In addition to helping Kansas National Guard members, the fund is also available to assist members of the military reserve forces in Kansas.

Donations may be made to the Kansas Military Emergency Relief Fund through a check-off on the Kansas Income Tax Form. If you do not have a refund on your return, or you have a balance due, you still may donate to this program by writing a check for your balance due plus the amount you wish to contribute to the Military Emergency Relief Fund.

Photo and video of this event can be found at the following links.

<http://vimeo.com/114910585>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127564439@N04/sets/72157649407532887/>

Walmart donates holiday food gift bags to Kansas National Guard

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation donated holiday food gift bags to the Kansas National Guard Dec. 17, 2014, as a show of support for the men and women serving our state and nation.

Gov. Sam Brownback and Brig. Gen. Scott Dold, chief of the joint staff for the Kansas National Guard, joined Walmart employees and members of the Kansas National Guard to fill the bags at the Topeka Walmart store, 1301 SW 37th Street.

"It's always gratifying to see businesses like Walmart support our military members by hiring veterans and making generous donations like this," said Brownback.

"Walmart has always been a friend to our Kansas military community and on behalf of the men and women of the Kansas National Guard, I want to express our appreciation to Walmart for this thoughtful show of support," said Dold.

"We are honored to take part in the event today with the Kansas National Guard," said Joshua Phair, Walmart Public Affairs. "At Walmart, we are grateful for the sacrifice our nation's veterans, military men and women, and their families have made in service to our country. It is not only our duty, but our honor to support our men and women in uniform not only when they are on the battlefield, but also when they return home and transition to civilian life."

After the gift bags were packed, they were taken to pick-up sights in Topeka for the selected National Guard families.

Walmart also donated gift bags at their stores in Hays, Iola, Salina, Shawnee and Wichita.

Video of this event can be found at the following link.

<http://vimeo.com/114818001>



Spartans welcome 35th Infantry Division

By Sgt. Melissa Parrish
4th Brigade Combat Team,
25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Members of the 35th Infantry Division from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guard were formally received as members of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division during a shoulder sleeve insignia ceremony held at the Joint Multinational Training Center, Hohenfels, Germany, Oct. 4, 2014.

The Guardsmen joined the 4/25th IBCT in Kosovo as elements of the brigade assume command and control of NATO's Multinational Battle Group-East in ongoing peace support operations.

Lt. Col. Clint Baker, the incoming commander of MNBG-E and a native of Hamilton, Texas, gave the Soldiers a "Spartan" greeting.

"We are proud to welcome our brothers and sisters from the 35th Infantry Division as they join us for our Kosovo Force 19 mission," said Baker. "There is no stronger bond than the bond of those that serve and strive together to accomplish a mission that is greater than ourselves."

Baker was the first to place a patch on a guardsman's shoulder – that of Maj. John Plaster, a native of Moberly, Missouri. The 35th Inf. Div. Soldiers followed suit and went one-by-one placing the 4/25th IBCT patch on their Soldiers' left arm.

Sgt. Patrick Finley, a human resources specialist with the Kansas Army National Guard, volunteered for this deployment and said he was excited to wear the Spartan patch.

"I really liked how we were initiated into the unit by the patch ceremony," said Finley. "I am ready for the mission in Kosovo and I am ready to support 4/25 any way I can."

Home stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, the 4/25 IBCT and its subordinate 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment will conduct peace support operations in Kosovo as part of a nine-month rotation.



Members of the 35th Infantry Division from the Kansas Army National Guard receive the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division patch at the insignia and welcoming ceremony held at Hohenfels, Germany, Oct. 4, 2014. *Photo by Sgt. Melissa Parrish, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs*



Members of the 35th Infantry Division from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guard stand in formation as they wait to receive the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division patch at the insignia and welcoming ceremony held at Hohenfels, Germany, Oct. 4, 2014. The guardsmen deployed to Kosovo with the 4/25th IBCT in support of ongoing peace support operations. *Photo by Sgt. Melissa Parrish, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs*

Kansas National Guard hosts legal leaders



U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom, District of Kansas, addresses attendees at the Kansas National Guard's annual Continuing Legal Education event held at the Top of the Tower in Topeka, Kansas, Sept. 13-14, 2014. The event brings together military and civilian attorneys to discuss many issues facing the legal community. Grissom was discussing the Department of Justice's response to events in Ferguson, Missouri.

Photo by Capt. Kevin Anderson, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

By Capt. Kevin Anderson
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Legal leaders from Kansas gathered to discuss many of the pressing challenges facing the Kansas National Guard. Officers from both the Army and Air National Guard took part in the continuing legal education conference hosted by the Kansas National Guard's Staff Judge Advocate General's office at the Top of the Tower, Topeka, Sept. 13-14, 2014.

Continuing legal education is an annual requirement that all lawyers (military and civilian), must complete to remain practicing attorneys in good standing with their state's bar association. The requirement is satisfied by attending professional courses throughout the year that discuss recent developments in different fields of law.

This year's CLE event was planned primarily by Capt. Vo-Laria Brooks, a JAG officer with the Kansas Army National Guard.

"Every year the Staff Judge Advocate's office tries to not only find interesting topics, but highly relevant issues," said Brooks.

The agenda this year certainly fit that bill. A constant theme throughout many of the individual presentations was how to best provide legal advice to commanders and Soldiers during the current challenging fiscal environment.

Brig. Gen. Scott Dold, the joint chief of staff for the Kansas National Guard, opened the CLE by saying that the mission of the National Guard will continue to be met, regardless of the financial situation.

"As our budget continues to shrink, we [JAG officers] must help our commanders, at every level, to find creative ways to meet their readiness requirements," said Dold.

Dold highlighted the critical role that the judge advocate's office will play in advising commanders in creative, legal ways, to stretch their budgets while staying within the bounds of the law.

Col. Matthew Oleen, the staff judge advocate of the Kansas National Guard, also highlighted the role judge advocates will play in communicating and working with commanders on how to responsibly structure the National Guard force for the future, while still meeting the legal needs of individual Soldiers.

Among the other topics discussed, two in particular have been gaining national media attention.

Guest speaker Barry Grissom, U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas, discussed the recent events in Ferguson, Missouri. Grissom's presentation highlighted the ways in which Department of Justice attorneys and Kansas law enforcement officials are working to prevent similar events from occurring in Kansas. Grissom said that the relationship between law enforcement and a community boils down to trust and respect.

"Communities thrive when there is mutual respect between its citizens and its law enforcement officials," said Grissom.

Grissom also said that he is encouraging law enforcement officials to wear small cameras while on patrol. He said that the wearable cameras have two benefits. First, the cameras will hold the officers accountable for their actions. Second, the cameras can provide a recording of an event in question, which may help to prevent a situation similar to Ferguson from spiraling out of control.

The second topic currently gaining national attention is that of sexual assault in the military. The conference featured investigators from the National Guard Bureau's Office of Complex Administrative Investigations to discuss the latest methods for investigating cases involving sexual assault. They stressed how important having trained attorneys, who are aware of the most recent procedures for investigating sexual assault cases, will be to the Kansas National Guard in responding to sexual assault investigations.

One of the most beneficial aspects of the event, according to the participants, is getting to meet other attorneys from various law practices. Dold remarked that the ability to conduct CLE events in a joint environment with civilian attorneys helps, broaden and strengthen the JAG Corps and each individual within the Guard.



Direction, wisdom provided at 2015 Commanders Conference

By Master Sgt. Brent Anders
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

“You are where the rubber meets the road,” were part of Brig. Gen. Robert Windham’s opening comments as he addressed the state’s command leadership of first sergeants and commanders at the annual Kansas Army National Guard Professional Development Conference, hosted by the 235th Regiment, in Salina, Jan. 24-25.

“I need you to come away from this weekend with some information and tools that are worthwhile to improve communications between us and address our established priorities,” said Windham, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard – Land Component. “One: readiness; Two: soldier care; and Three: communication.”

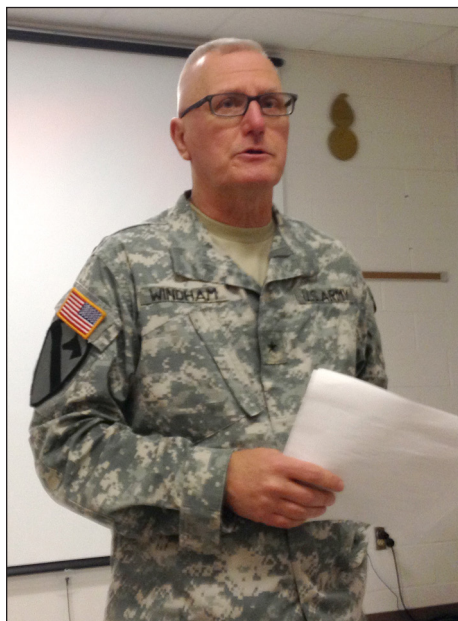
Windham described readiness as encompassing medical (dental, physical health assessment and shots), equipment (preventive maintenance checks and services), individual weapons qualification, and retention and recruiting. The main efforts for this priority, at this time, are Soldiers’ Military Occupational Specialty Qualification. Soldiers need to be fully qualified for the position they hold within the Kansas Army National Guard.

“Improve readiness, but at a minimum don’t lose any ground,” Windham said. “Losing ground is not an option. Otherwise, there will be an intervention.”

Soldier care was described as including pay, assistance and training with the Defense Travel System; quality and safety of training; providing recourses to assist Soldiers in need; and ensuring an actively supported Family Readiness Group.

“Recruit the Soldier, retain the family. It’s a package deal,” said Windham. “As the command team, you own the culture and the climate. When [Soldiers] go back to civilian work on Monday, they should have something to brag about. Challenge them and they will grow.”

Communication was also described as a vital priority. All Soldiers need to



Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, commander Kansas Army National Guard – Land Component, addresses command teams at the annual KSARNG Professional Development Conference hosted by the 235th Regiment in Salina, Jan. 24-25.
Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

know what is going on and why. Soldiers are to be contacted between drills to ensure they know what to expect and to check up on them to ensure readiness and Soldier care. Windham said customer service is part of proper communication. Soldiers’ perceptions are important and a feeling must exist that state headquarters is responsive to units in the field. If this is not the case, the higher headquarters is to be informed immediately. The importance of customer service in prompt communication is to work both ways.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, command sergeant major of the Kansas Army National Guard- Land Component, was also present at the conference. He provided a lot of information and guidance dealing with many subjects, including proper use of Split Unit Training Assembly, the use of flags (current Army Reference 600-8-2), promotions for specialists/corporals and below, use of

the Enlisted Promotion System (National Guard Regulation 600-200), sending Soldiers to Officer Candidate School, and the quality of training conducted during drill and annual training.

“Soldiers should be worn out on Sundays and proud of what they’ve done,” said Moberly.

Although not able to stay for the entire conference, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafaanelli, adjutant general of Kansas, and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, state command sergeant major of the Kansas National Guard, were able to address the large crowd and provide additional wisdom.

“The success of the Kansas Army National Guard resides in all of you, the command teams ... It’s not about what is best for the Army or the National Guard, it’s about what’s best for the nation,” said Tafaanelli.

He also expressed the importance of partnerships.

“We have to find better ways to partner with other entities,” said Tafaanelli. “How do we partner to better address the problems that we have? As resources become thinner, we need to better partner and collaborate to solve our issues.”

Many other important topics were presented by a multiple of other Kansas Army National representatives. Presentations on Equal Opportunity, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, budget/funding, educational benefits, and the adapted Army Force Generation /Strategic Readiness Model were also conducted.

A special presentation was conducted on the abilities of the Directors Personnel Readiness Objective online system and how it can be used to better manage readiness. All command team members, regardless of status, can obtain access to this powerful tool by going through their readiness noncommissioned officer.

Departing guidance was provided by Windham as the conference came to a close.

“When you leave here, work on the things that you can influence and it will all be good and work out.”

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Looking for stories, photos or video products from around the Kansas Army National Guard?

105th MPAD Facebook site (stories, photos, video products and more)

<https://www.facebook.com/105thMPAD>

For digital flip-magazine issues of the *Kansas Sentinel*

<http://issuu.com/ks105thmpad>

For PDF copies of the *Kansas Sentinel*

<http://www.kansastag.gov/NGUARD.asp?PageID=396>

For the 105th MPAD's DVIDS site (stories, photos, video products)

<http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/105MPAD>

For PDF copies of the *Plains Guardian*

<http://www.kansastag.gov/NGUARD.asp?PageID=7>



Kansas Adjutant General's Department

<http://www.kansastag.gov/>



Looking for a job? Check out these links.

HRO Webpage – all open full-time positions for Army & Air Guard (Technician and AGR)

http://www.kansastag.gov/fedhro_default.asp

USAJOBS - Link (using the key word search of Kansas National Guard)

<https://www.usajobs.gov/>

Army Guard Traditional M-Day vacancies

<http://kansastag.gov/OPP.asp?PageID=557>

Air Guard "Traditional" vacancies

<http://www.kansastag.gov/OPP.asp?PageID=601>

Civilian Jobs for National Guard Members

<http://kansastag.gov/NGUARD.asp?PageID=455>

Kansas Army National Guard <http://www.kansasarmynationalguard.com/>



A Soldier of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment listens to instructions on crowd control tactics in the Civil Disturbance and Pressure Control Point training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina, Oct. 5, 2014. Different police control tactics used to gain control of compliant and in compliant individuals were taught. *Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Dahlquist, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*



Master Sgt. Michael Barber, 35th Military Police Company and assistant instructor for the civil disturbance training, helps line up Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment during a riot drill at the Civil Disturbance and Pressure Control Point training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina, Oct. 5, 2014. *Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Dahlquist, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*



Tactics in an unruly situation

By Spc. Anna Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment participated in Civil Disturbance and Pressure Control Point training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina, Oct. 5, 2014. The training helped the unit learn tactics and strategies to gain control of diverse civil situations.

"We're utilizing different police control tactics in this training to gain control of compliant and in-compliant individuals," said Master Sgt. Michael Barber, 35th Military Police Company and assistant instructor for the civil disturbance training. "We get guys out here on line and teach them how to move as a unit, how to work together, then, after that, start adding in civil situations, like people being unruly.

That way they can utilize the tools they learned throughout the weekend to get a positive training experience."

These techniques and tactics can be used if they were to have to go anywhere, such as Topeka or Kansas City, to assist local law enforcement. Soldiers were also able to learn different control techniques from members of the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department.

"I've been fortunate to work with the Kansas Army National Guard over the last four years on this type of material," said George Sims, captain with the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department and a lead instructor for the civil disturbance training.

"This has been a great weekend working with these Soldiers," said Sims. "Everybody has been really attentive, really motivated, they've paid attention, they've been engaged, and I feel like not

only have they been really energetic, but they have learned a lot."

Training began with a day of in-class exercises and preparation, before going outside to face riot exercises,

"We went through step-by-step in-class training and then we went through motions," said Sgt. Kendall Bailey, 1st Battalion, 161st, Field Artillery Regiment, from Pratt. "The trainers were pretty thorough with their knowledge and they made sure that we knew what we were doing before we came out here."

Instructors and Soldiers enjoyed the weekend and learning about themselves, their colleagues, and the training.

"After working with these guys like I have, I personally would go out of my way to assist them ..." said Sims. "I look forward to helping them out at every available opportunity. I hope this continues year after year."

Kansas welcomes new

By Master Sgt. Brent Anders
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

To the applause and cheers of proud family, friends and other Soldiers, officer candidates of Officer Candidate School Class 58, 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment, received their commissions as second lieutenants during a graduation ceremony Aug. 16, 2014, at the Kansas Highway Patrol Academy, Salina.

Near the beginning of the ceremony, OCS candidates presented a token of appreciation for the efforts of the cadre and staff.

"I would like to present our class gift to the battalion," said OCS candidate Douglas Boland. "It is a memorial to the graduates of the Kansas Army National Guard who have fallen in battle."

The inscription on the plaque read "In memory of those who went before us and gave all while leading the Soldiers of the state of Kansas. Kansas Army National Guard officer candidate school graduates killed in action: 1st Lt. Milbrat, Dale L. Class 09, KIA, April 11, 1969; Van Hoa province Vietnam. 1st Lt. Hess, Kerry E. Class 12, KIA; June 5, 1969, Tai Nam province, Vietnam; 1st Lt. Richardson, Arlend D. Class 12, KIA, Feb. 17, 1970, Kwong Ngai province, Vietnam. Presented by class 58."

Another special part of the OCS graduation was the Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Developed in 2003 by retired Col. Robert Bloomquist, a former commander of the 235th Regiment, the OCS Hall of Fame was created to pay special tribute to outstanding officers who graduated from the OCS program. These

officers have attained the rank of colonel or higher, been awarded the Medal of Honor, were killed in action or died in a combat zone. This year's honored inductees were retired Kansas Army National Guard officers Col. George Lind and Col. Bob Mallams. OCS candidates assisted in the Hall of Fame induction ceremony by reading biographies of each inductee.

Lind joined the military in 1960 at the age of 17 as an infantryman in the Kansas Army National Guard. After achieving the rank of staff sergeant, Lind attended the Kansas Military Academy Officer Candidate School, Class 10, and received his commission as a second lieutenant in 1967.

Lind served in a multiple of leadership roles during his career, including director of resource management of the Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Lind served in this role during the Gulf War Desert Shield/Desert Storm operations, which marked the largest call-up of Reserve Component personnel since the Berlin Crisis of 1961. Additionally, Lind completed two Army studies for the Army Reserve. The first was on Army Reserve Training Divisions, published by the Army. The second was the Army Reserve Command Study, which led to the restructuring of the United States Army Reserve into Regional Support Commands. Lind retired in 1997.

"What a great honor and a privilege this is for both myself and my dear wife Sharon and our children, Elizabeth and Mike Jr., Rebecca Rachel, Thomas, Nathan," said Lind, after receiving his award from Col. Judith Martin, commander of the



Officer Candidate School candidates, Class 58, 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment, take their commissioning oath as part of their graduation ceremony held at the Kansas Highway Patrol Academy, Salina, Aug. 16, 2014. Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

class of OCS graduates

235th Regiment. "We all know what the family faces when the breadwinner is in the Army. It is with humble gratitude that we share this day with Class 58 graduates and fellow inductee ... Now go forward to the sound of the guns and be a good example for those you lead and thank you, thank you from our hearts."

Mallams began his military career in 1970 as an enlisted Soldier with the combat engineers. He graduated from the Kansas Military Academy Officer Candidate School, Class 16, in 1972.

Mallams served in a variety of leadership rolls, including secretary for the general staff and a follow-on assignment as an assistant plans officer, general's operations cell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Infantry Division. Mallams also served on a three-year tour as an assistant professor of military science, MS-II instructor for Reserve Officer's Training Corps Cadets at Missouri Western State University and the University of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri. Mallams retired in 1997.

"This is a wonderful honor. I want to thank each one of you," said Mallams. "To my wife, my lovely wife, thank you for your patience and your understanding. I can blame it on the military. To my beautiful daughters who are with me today, thank you. To my son-in-laws, to my grandchildren, this is a very special day... I feel very honored and very appreciative of the award ... Thank you."

The guest speaker for this event was Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, who was introduced by Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas.

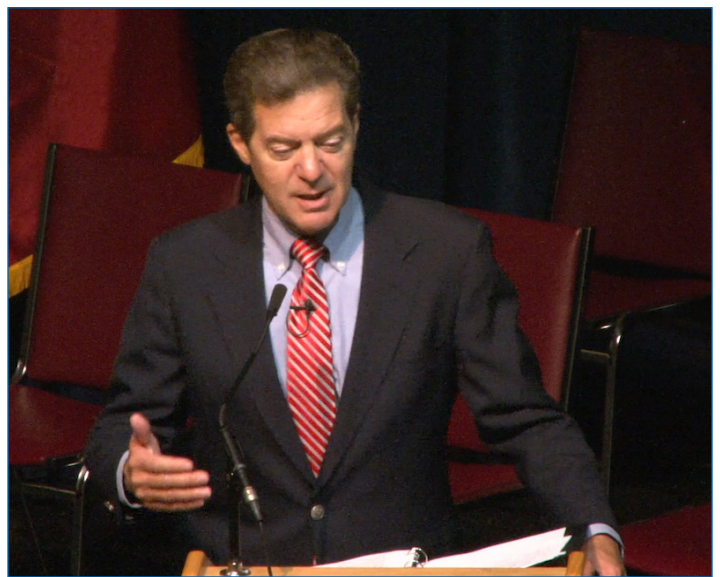
"You that are going into duty as officers, you're likely to be in a lot of different places in your military career," said Brownback. "Most of it is going to be probably pretty gritty and pretty dirty in far away place in the world that you're looking at saying 'How on earth did I get from Kansas to the middle of here?' Well, you signed up for it. But you had a calling to do that too. You lead your troops, your men and women, not out of authority; you lead them out of respect. They respect you. They respect what you stand for, they respect who you are."

Brownback assisted in the ceremony by handing out awards to several Soldiers who excelled in the 13-month-long OCS program. Officer Candidate Mandy Shobe received the Physical Fitness and Tactical Proficiency awards. Officer Candidate Travis Wickham received the Nobel W. Drake Academic Achievement and the Erickson Distinguished Graduate awards. Officer Candidate Douglas Boland also received two awards, the Association of the United States Army Kansas Heartland Chapter Follow Me Leadership and the National Guard Associate of Kansas OCS Distinguished Graduate award.

The graduating OCS Soldiers were: Joshua Anderson, Salina; Douglas Boland, Shawnee; Robert Chandler, Wakefield; Amanda Frost, Junction City; Lyle Hawthorne, Wakefield; Gregory Kreek, Kansas City; Spencer Krupp, Overland Park; Charles Leistner III, Lawrence; Joshua Loreman, Topeka; Robert Razo, Topeka; Brian Reeves, Wichita; Sondra Robinson, Overland Park; Ronald Rousseau, Lawrence; Mandy Shobe, Kansas City, Missouri; Hans Stephenson, Leavenworth; Matthew Vanderpool, Topeka; and Travis Wickham, Topeka.



Graduating Officer Candidate Douglas Boland, Class 58, 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment, shakes hands with Lt. Col. John Clark, Officer Candidate School battalion commander, while presenting a memorial to the graduates of Kansas Army National Guard who have fallen in battle. The memorial was given as a token of appreciation for the efforts of the cadre and staff. The ceremony was held at the Kansas Highway Patrol Academy, Salina, Aug. 16, 2014. *Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*



Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback addresses the graduating Officer Candidate School candidates of Class 58, 1st Battalion, 235th Regiment, during their graduation held at the Kansas Highway Patrol Academy, Salina, Aug. 16, 2014. *Photo by Master Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

TWO INDUCTED INTO THE MUSEUM OF THE



Maj. Gen. Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, joins retired Col. William Vonderschmidt and his wife, Carol, for a picture during the Museum of the Kansas Army National Guard Hall of Fame ceremony held at the Ramada Inn, Topeka, Nov. 2, 2014.
Photo by Sgt. Kyle Galvin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

By Sgt. Kyle Galvin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Retired Col. William Vonderschmidt

Retired Col. William Vonderschmidt was born in Falls City, Nebraska, and attended Hiawatha High School, graduating in 1964. He enlisted in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Sept. 30, 1965.

Vonderschmidt was attending the Kansas National Guard Officer Candidate School when his unit was mobilized for federal duty in the spring of 1968. His class, OCS 12, was accelerated and Vonderschmidt was commissioned as a second lieutenant and reported for active duty May 13, 1968.

While on active duty, he completed the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course and the Jungle Operations Training Course, after which he was sent to Vietnam. He was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division as a forward observer and aerial observer from January through December 1969.

During his service in Vietnam, Vonderschmidt earned a Silver Star, the third highest military decoration for valor. His quick thinking and reaction, laying down close artillery support on the enemy, saved numerous lives.

He went on to complete the Field Artillery Advanced Course in 1978 and the Command and General Staff College Nonresident

The Kansas National Guard inducted two new members into the Museum of the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the Ramada Inn, Topeka, Nov. 2, 2014. Retired Col. William "Bill" Vonderschmidt and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dale L. Putman were the newest members to be inducted.

National Guard senior leadership, family and friends attended the event to honor the two Soldiers for their achievements and service to the nation and the state of Kansas.

The event kicked off with a posting of the colors headed by the Adjutant General's Ceremonial Platoon. Chaplain (Col.) David Jenkins, state chaplain for the Kansas National Guard, gave the invocation followed by an introduction of special guests and the museum's board of directors by Col. Mike Erwin, master of ceremonies.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, praised the inductees for their dedication and service to their country.

"These men are the real deal," said Tafanelli. "On behalf of all citizens of Kansas, thank you for everything you have done."

KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD HALL OF FAME

Course in 1985 and many other schools.

Through his career, Vonderschmidt served in a variety of command and staff positions including commander of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, where he and Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Putman worked together; as commander of the 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery; commander of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade; and several staff positions in the 35th Division Artillery.

The retired colonel was also branch-qualified as an engineer officer and served as a director of Facilities Engineering for the Kansas Army National Guard. He was assigned as the deputy commander of State Area Command and later as the deputy commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

His final assignment was the chief of the Joint Staff - Land Component.

Vonderschmidt retired in 2006 with more than 40 years of commissioned and enlisted military service.

"I never thought I'd be a lifer," said Vonderschmidt. "Six years was almost half my life when I joined."

Though retired he remains active in many organizations within his community.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Putman

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Putman was born in Junction City and graduated from White City High School in 1964. He joined the Kansas National Guard with a friend as the Vietnam War was heating up. He was assigned to 242nd Engineers, which became the 169th Engineer Company, bridge platoon in 1965.

He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Hoping to go to Vietnam, he was mobilized for federal service with the 69th Brigade in 1968 and assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado. However, his unit was not deployed to Vietnam. He returned home and received an honorable discharge in 1970.

Putman re-enlisted in 1974 and was assigned to his old company, the 169th Engineers, as a maintenance squad leader. Over the next 12 years, Putman's career saw rapid growth as he climbed the ranks, achieving command sergeant major in 1986.

He served as command sergeant major of the 69th Infantry Brigade before joining forces with fellow Hall of Fame inductee Vonderschmidt. Together, they commanded the 130th Field Artillery Brigade.

In 2003, he became the first command sergeant major of the Joint Forces Headquarters - Land Component, Kansas Army National Guard.

However, Putman had one last dream that he hoped to accomplish during his military service, completing a combat deployment.

Six months before his 60th birthday and his initial retirement date, Putman was given the opportunity to make that

dream become a reality when he was tasked as the command sergeant major senior mentor with the Headquarters Security Support Command, Combined Security Transition Command, Afghanistan. He and his men mentored their Afghan National Army counterparts in conducting daily security operations for the President and Defense Minister of Afghanistan.

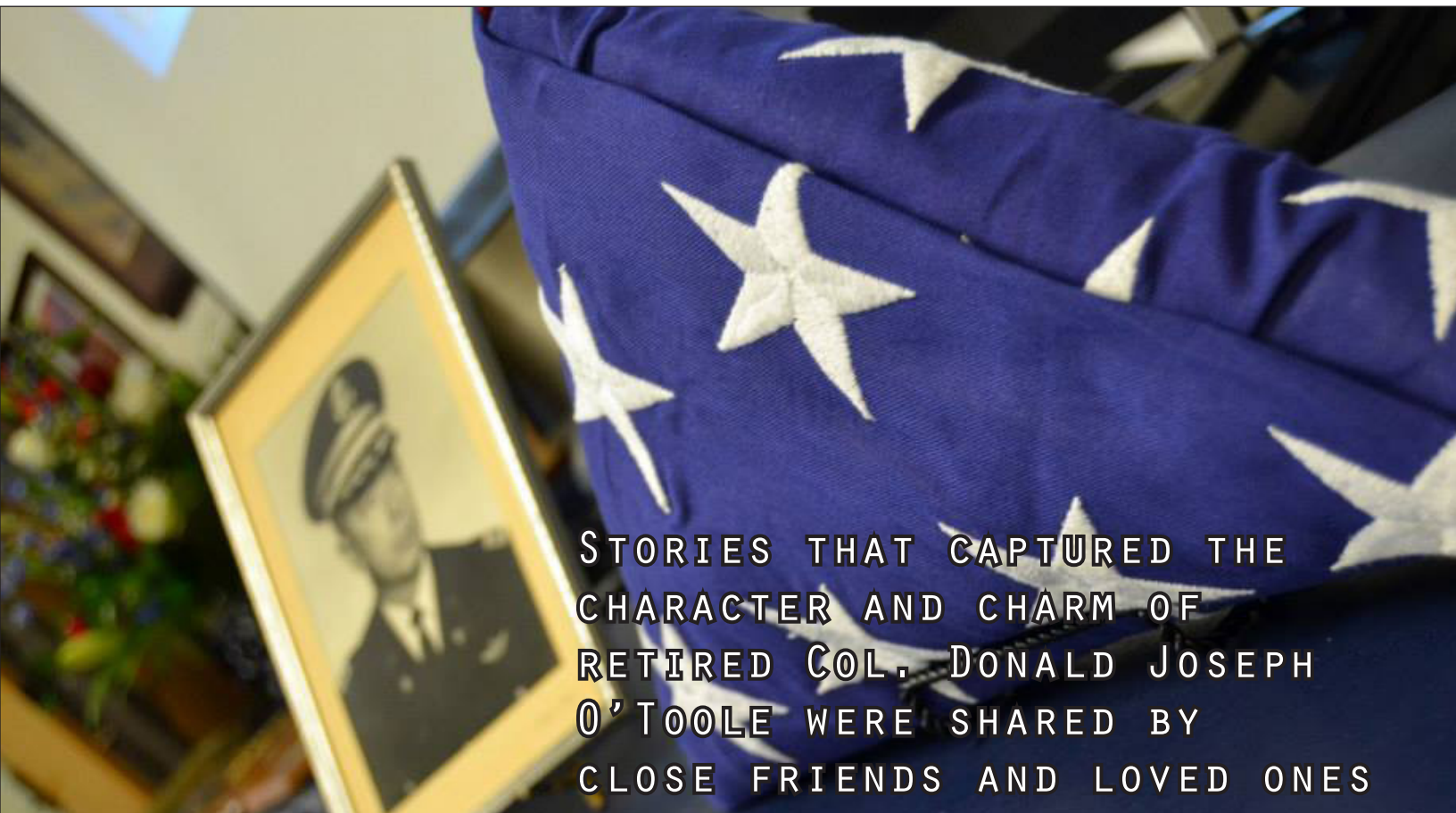
"After not being able to go to Vietnam, deploying to Afghanistan is one of the proudest moments in my life," said Putman.

He retired from the military in 2007 after 39 years of service. Putman continues to keep busy participating in several organizations.



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Putman speaks to the audience at the Museum of the Kansas Army National Guard Hall of Fame ceremony held at the Ramada Inn, Topeka, Nov. 2, 2014. Photo by Sgt. Kyle Galvin, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment





STORIES THAT CAPTURED THE
CHARACTER AND CHARM OF
RETIRED COL. DONALD JOSEPH
O'TOOLE WERE SHARED BY
CLOSE FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES

Remembering a true officer and a gentleman

Story and photos by Spc. Anna Laurin
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

during a memorial service at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Topeka, Jan. 10. O'Toole passed away Dec. 30, 2014, at the age of 91. Those who were fortunate to know him shared their memories of their time with him.

"Everyone who showed up today is a testament to Don's friendship and his life as it touched yours," said retired Col. Wayne Cline, a retired instructor pilot and close friend who worked alongside O'Toole.

Donald Joseph O'Toole was born Dec. 4, 1923, to Joseph and Beulah O'Toole at the Maryland General Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland. He attended McKinley Technology High School, Washington, D.C. and graduated in 1941. O'Toole joined the military in 1943. His favorite hobby was photography, which became influential in his Army career, and in 1945 he was assigned to Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington D.C., where he established the first base photo lab.

He joined the Kansas National Guard in 1947 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1948. He attended flight training at San Marcos Air Force Base, San Marcos, Texas graduating in 1949. During his career in the Guard aviation he was very influential to the state's Army Aviation program during its period of greatest growth. O'Toole retired as the state aviation officer in 1979, having logged 9,379 flying hours with



Retired Col. Wayne Cline, a retired instructor pilot and close friend who worked alongside O'Toole, describes retired Col. Donald J. O'Toole's life during a memorial service for O'Toole at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Topeka, Jan. 10. Family and close friends shared any stories about O'Toole that captured his character and charm.

a total of 36 years of service.

The memorial continued with several stories about how outstanding O'Toole was as a boss, instructor and a friend.

"I want to start off by saying thank you, Colonel Don O'Toole. I am thankful for your friendship," said retired State Command Sgt. Maj. Viviano Reveles, friend and coworker. "I want to thank him for setting the example for all of us of what a good Soldier should be. Colonel O'Toole was truly an officer and a gentleman."

O'Toole's passion for his work and flying showed by the dedication he had to spending time in the air and passing on his skills to other pilots.

"Don liked to test you," said Col. Dennis Parry, retired chief of staff for the Kansas Army National Guard. "Not only did he like what he did to test you, but he liked to see your reaction."

After retiring from the Guard, O'Toole was employed by the Kansas Highway Patrol as a security aide and pilot for Governor John Carlin, retiring at age 60 in 1983. Among his many military awards, he received the Secret Service Director's Award. He was inducted into the Museum of the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame in 1991 and received the 2001 Governor's Aviation Honor Award.

Donald O'Toole is the father of Col. Michael Joseph O'Toole, who was commander of the 190th Air Refueling Wing for a little more than a year when he died in a private plane crash in 2003. Both O'Tooles were inducted into the Museum of the Kansas Army National Guard Hall of Fame, where you can see their photos hanging one above the other.


Donald O'Toole is survived by his wife of 52 years, Shirley Fulkerson O'Toole; his sister Betty O'Toole Harvill; three daughters, Kathleen Zimmerman, Debra Shelinbarger and Lori Kelly; daughter-in-law Pam O'Toole Trusdale; nine grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

"Today I would gladly associate myself with anyone that resembles the character of Colonel Donald O'Toole," said Reveles. "The aviators that are flying, they don't know it, but there is an instructor pilot flying with them by the name of Colonel Don O'Toole. Keep them safe, Colonel."



Col. David Leger, deputy chief of staff for aviation, Kansas Army National Guard, presents an American flag to Shirley Fulkerson O'Toole, widow of Col. Donald O'Toole during his memorial service at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, Topeka, Jan. 10. Donald O'Toole is survived by his wife of 52 years, a sister, three daughters, a daughter-in-law, nine grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Guard continues successful relationship with NASCAR



Dalton Ficken looks through the scope of a sniper rifle at the Kansas Army National Guard static display prior to the Hollywood Casino 400 NASCAR race outside Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas, Oct. 5, 2014. Members of the Kansas Army National Guard took the time to interact with the community to demonstrate their equipment and abilities as Soldiers. *Photo by Spc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

By Spc. Robert Havens
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Years ago, a 15-year-old boy climbed into an M2 Bradley Fighting vehicle and found himself in awe. All the computer screens, learning how the weapons worked, the size of it and the awesome power were very influential on the young man. Growing up on a farm, he had always been interested in firearms; he'd already spent a good part of his life using firearms. It was at that moment, recalls Spc. Ryan Marsh, where he found his calling to become an infantryman.

The Kansas Army National Guard took part in the 2014 Hollywood Casino 400 NASCAR race at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas, Oct. 5, 2014, providing the pre-race ceremonies and a static display featuring an M2 Bradley fighting vehicle, an M1 Abrams tank, an M109 Paladin howitzer, a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, and a virtual firearms

range. Kansas Guardsmen showcased many aspects of their job and explained the working of the vehicles on static display to an enthusiastic public.

Now a Soldier with the Kansas National Guard, Marsh recalled when he was one of those people when he was younger, meeting other Guardsmen and seeing their static display, being impressed by their professional demeanor and their willingness to make the kids happy.

"It's amazing being out here," said Marsh. "The people come and show their support for the Guard. Their patriotism is wonderful. I've had so many veterans come up to me and tell me so many stories."

"It's a good thing for the community to be together because we are all one, anyway," said Staff Sgt. Robert Pounds, motor transport operator driver with the 35th Infantry Division. "... the first to get called upon is the National Guard, so I think it's important for the community to see our presence out here.

"The community has been coming out and telling us that they appreciate the job that we do," said Pounds. "It's also great to have the Soldiers out here because it lets the Soldiers know the job they're doing is appreciated by the community."

Community events such as the static display at Kansas Speedway work on many levels.

"Anytime you can be in front of 50,000-100,000 people really helps with recruiting and retention efforts," said Sgt. 1st Class James Hubbard, former marketing noncommissioned officer for the Kansas National Guard. "It also helps branding for the Guard and shows the communities what the Guard does."

The Kansas National Guard pre-race featured the Kansas Army National Guard color guard, a special operation parachuting demonstration, driver introductions and Kansas National Guardsman and former Miss Kansas 2013, Sgt. Theresa Vail singing "Take Me out to



the Ballgame” in honor of the Kansas City Royals playoff success.

With all that, they also managed to squeeze in a change of command ceremony. The Kansas National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion welcomed Lt. Col. Shy Warner as incoming commander, replacing outgoing commander Lt. Col. Ken Weishaar.

“It’s a tremendous honor, because it’s kind of a pinnacle for a lieutenant colonel to be in charge of a battalion,” said Warner. “Part of my vision is, of course, meeting the adjutant general’s end-strength for the Kansas Army National Guard, ensuring our recruiters are proactively searching for new recruits to meet that intent and that I can do my best to create a stable recruiting force.”

The busy day concluded with a win for NASCAR driver Joey Lagano, a lot of fun and a new-found sense of community between the race attendees and the Kansas National Guard.



Members of the Kansas National Guard interact with NASCAR fans at a static display along the fan walk outside Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas, Oct. 5, 2014, prior to the Hollywood Casino 400 NASCAR race. The chance to interact with the community allows people to see the capabilities of their military. *Photo by Spc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*



Guests of the Kansas Army National Guard tour the pit lane and garages of Kansas Speedway prior to the Hollywood Casino 400 Oct. 5, 2014. Events such as this allow the Army National Guard to honor members of the community. *Photo by Spc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*



Members of the Kansas Army National Guard present the colors during the Kansas National Guard pre-race opening ceremonies of the Hollywood Casino 400 at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas, Oct. 5, 2014. *Photo by Spc. Robert Havens, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*



Saint Barbara's dining out

This year's inductees for the Order of Saint Barbara stand with candles during the ceremony held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Feb. 21. Photo by Spc. Jen Bjorgaard, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Capt. Michael Ocrowley, a field artillery officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment, approaches the front of the room to receive his Saint Barbara Medallion during the induction ceremony at a dining out at the Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Feb. 21. Photo by Spc. Jen Bjorgaard, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

By Spc. Jen Bjorgaard
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard's 130th Field Artillery Brigade gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, Feb. 21 to conduct their annual Saint Barbara's celebration.

Soldiers proudly wore their best dress uniforms and guests arrived in formal gowns and tuxedos. Special guests included Rep. Tom Phillips, Kansas House of Representatives - 67th District; and Brig. Gen. Robert Windham, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard and former deputy commander of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade.

During the celebration, Soldiers offered toasts and paid tribute to fallen comrades with a moment of silence. The event also recognized those who had stood above the rest while performing their duties as Soldiers and artillerymen with induction into the honorable Order of Saint Barbara, the patron saint of artillerymen.

The following Soldiers were welcomed into the order by lighting a candle and receiving the Saint Barbara Medallion: Capt. Matthew Nordquist, Capt. Michael Ocrowley, 1st Sgt. Thomas Becher, Staff Sgt. David Halsey, Staff Sgt. Joel Lara, Staff Sgt. Jerry Lofland, Staff Sgt. Aaron Cairo, Staff Sgt. Joseph Wilper, Staff Sgt. Quint Tallent and Staff Sgt. Jason Bryan.

A second ceremony of the evening recognized the spouses who have made a significant contribution to the unit, leading to the betterment of the field artillery community. Melissa Addington, Sara Meier and Samantha Ross were inducted into the Order of Molly Pitcher and presented with a medallion.

Also recognized that evening were the Brigade Soldier of the Year, Spc. Robert Howell, Headquarter and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery and the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Sgt. Ashley Verver, HHB, 2nd Bn., 130th FA.

In his remarks, Windham reflected on importance of using this occasion to gather all of the field artillery units and their families so that they could revel in the experiences that make the field artillery so special.

"Truly you are the king of battle..." said Windham. "Long live the king."

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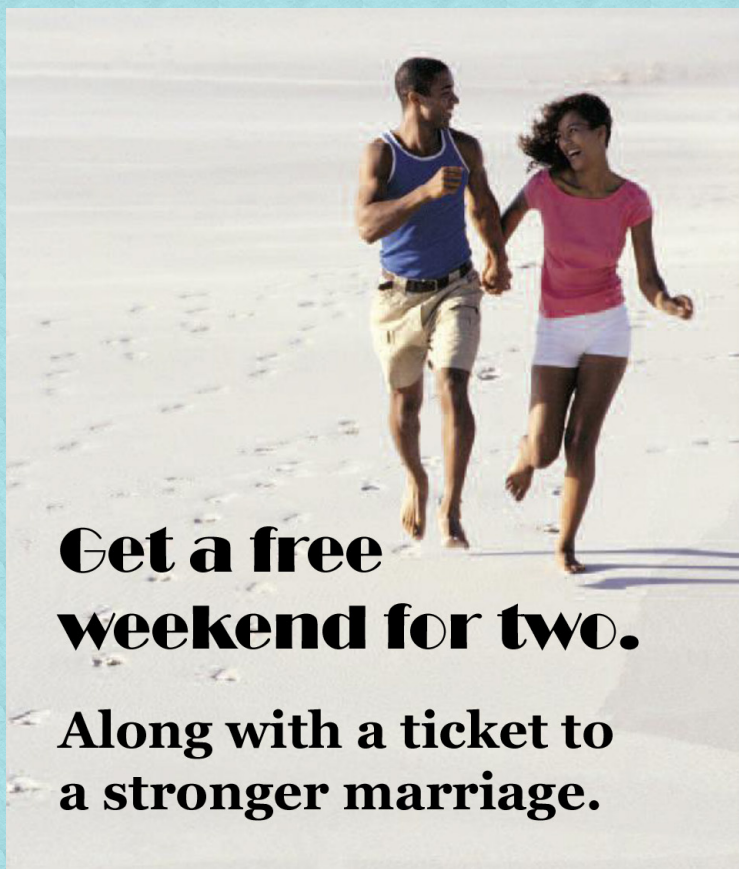
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AROUND THE GUARD

Spe. Anna Laurin, 105th MPA



Capt. Kade Garst of Salina hands over the company flag to Capt. Dallas Nivens of Chillicothe, Missouri, at a change of command ceremony, for the 2137th Forward Support Company, Manhattan, Feb. 7.

Spe. Robert Havens, 105th MPA



The 891st Engineer Battalion saw a change of command with outgoing commander Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship handing the unit over to incoming commander Lt. Col. Ken Weishaar during a ceremony held at Allen County Community College in Topeka, Jan. 11.

Capt. Michael Sullivan, 105th MPA



Brig. Gen. Robert Windham (second from left), commander of the Kansas Army National Guard - Land Component, helps cut the ceremonial ribbon at the new instructional facilities for food service specialists at the Kansas Regional Training Institute in Salina, Jan. 24.

35th Infantry Division Photo



Staff Sgt. Gregory Kline of the 35th Infantry Division talks with another volunteer veteran during the Veterans Day parade in Leavenworth, Nov. 11, 2014.

Spec. Jen Bjorgaard, 105th MPA



Lt. Col. Thomas W. Burke speaks to guests after being promoted to the rank of colonel at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Topeka Feb. 7. Burke's wife and two children participated in the ceremony which was attended by many friends, family and Soldiers of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Capt. Michael Sullivan, 105th MPA



Sgt. First Class Daniel Reling, property book team chief, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Joint Forces Relations Committee Topeka Armed Forces Personnel of the Year 2014 in a ceremony at Topeka City Hall Feb. 3.

Capt. Michael Sullivan, 105th MPA



The Kansas National Guard's 35th Infantry Division Band played holiday favorites at a free community concert at De Soto High School, Dec. 13, 2014. Bob Ball, the band's first sergeant, is the band director at Mill Creek Middle School in the De Soto School District.

Courtesy Photo



Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented Karri Barker (center), supervisor for the Olathe Police Department Records and Property, with the Patriot Award Jan. 14, in Olathe. Barker was nominated by her employee, Sgt. Anna Simbeck, a broadcast journalist with the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Topeka.



KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD

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CH (LtCol) Oliver Bergeron

Office: (785) 861-4001 Cell: (316) 210-7956

DSN: 720-4001 oliver.bergeron@ang.af.mil

184th IW Chaplain

CH (LtCol) Terry Williams

Office: (316) 652-9601 Cell: (316) 304-2306

terry@rivercc.org or terry.williams@ang.af.mil

Full Time Support Chaplain

CH (MAJ) John Potter

Office: (785) 274-1515 Cell: (785) 220-9480

john.r.potter@mail.mil

Full Time Support Chaplain Assistant

SSG Jimmy Boss

Office: (785) 274-1514 Cell: (785) 215-4067

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DSN: 720-4792 robert.johnson.8@ang.af.mil

184th IW Director of Psychological Health

Jeri Kennedy

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Salina: Kara L Marlow

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MSgt Kristina Perkins - Cell: 785-207-8530

Kristina.s.perkins@mail.mil

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISOR PROGRAM (TAA)

Helping Service Members access Veteran Affairs' health care services, benefits and employment assistance.

Howard Steanson

Mobile: (785) 806-4179 Office: (785) 274-1188

howard.l.steanson.ctr@mail.mil

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST (TAS)

MAJ Charles Lunkwitz

Mobile: 785-817-2960 Office: 785-274-1129

Charles.t.lunkwitz@mail.mil

AIRMAN & FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM MANAGER

190th ARW: Adrienne Dickey

Office: (785) 861-4940 Cell: (785) 806-1252 DSN: 720-4940

adrienne.dickey@ang.af.mil

184th IW: Hilari Delarosa

Office: (316) 759-7092 Cell: (316) 617-804 DSN: 743-7092

hilari.delarosa.civ@ang.af.mil

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND THE RESERVE

Helping resolve conflict between employers and Service Members and locate companies who are hiring Guard members and Reservists.

Paul Swanson

Mobile: (785) 217-4828 Office: (785) 274-1559

www.esgr.mil

paul.a.swanson10.ctr@mail.mil

These resources are for all KSNG Service Members and their families regardless of their duty status.